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as far removed on the one hand from the cheap Jingoism which itches and screams for a fight as it is on the other from indifference to the demands of humanity on the part of a great free country.

As to other matters the message declares, what was already known to the public, that "the Venezuela boundary question has ceased to be a matter of difference between Great Britain and the United States." The plan of putting certain Consular positions under the civil service rules has proved to be entirely satisfactory. So has that of the inspection of Consular offices. Recommendation is made that official residences for our Ambassadors and Ministers at foreign capitals should be provided at public expense. Reference is made to the effort to preserve the seal life in Behring Sea, and upon the reports of the Commissions of this country and Great Britain, soon to be made, touching the actual conditions of the seals, it is hoped that hearty coöperation may be secured for their protection.

Additional interest has been given to the subject of foreign affairs by the excellent report of Secretary Olney, the first of its kind ever made. His treatment of the Armenian and the Cuban questions harmonizes of course with that of the President, though it is fuller on the latter subject. He refers to the establishment of the Greater Republic of Central America by the republics of Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador, the recognition of which is under consideration by the department. Negotiations are still in progress for the completion of the work of the Chilian claims commission. Our relations with China have been made more friendly by the concession to American citizens of the right to purchase lands. Reference is made to the re-imposing of the tonnage tax on German shipping because of the collection in German ports of dues on all American vessels; also to the stringent measures adopted by Germany against the importation of American cattle and meats "on assumed grounds of public health"; also to the restrictions imposed upon American life insurance companies doing business in Prussia. The situation in Samoa is practically the same as stated in the last annual message of the President.

The example set by Secretary Olney of making a special report of the work of the State Department is likely to be followed by his successors. State affairs are now followed with so much interest by all intelligent citizens that the public ought not to be without full annual reports of the doings of this, in some respects, most important of all the national secretaryships.

#### THE VENEZUELA-GUIANA BOUNDARY TREATY.

The full text of the Venezuela-Guiana boundary treaty, which the press has gotten hold of before it has been officially published, contains in substance what we gave

last month. We give it in full below for the benefit of those readers who may like to have it in a form to preserve. Secretary Olney has received word from Minister Andrade at Caracas that the Venezuelan government has accepted the treaty. In a short time, therefore, the arbitrators will be appointed, the long-standing dispute settled, and the cause of peace and good-will greatly promoted. It is becoming increasingly clear that every case of international dispute about anything whatever is not only capable of being arbitrated but that it is utterly foolish and unreasonable to think of reserving any class of cases for adjustment in any other way.

#### THE TREATY.

1. An arbitral tribunal shall be immediately appointed to determine the boundary line between the colony of British Guiana and the Republic of Venezuela.

2. The tribunal shall consist of two members nominated by the judges of the supreme court of the United States and two members nominated by the judges of the British high court of justice—and a fifth selected by the four persons so nominated, or in the event of their failure to agree within three months from the time of their nomination, selected by the King of Sweden. The person so selected shall be the president of the tribunal. The persons nominated by the judges of the supreme court of the United States and the British high court of justice, respectively, may be judges of either of said courts.

3. The tribunal shall investigate and ascertain the extent of the territories belonging to, or that might be lawfully claimed by, the United Netherlands or by the kingdom of Spain, respectively, at the time of the acquisition by Great Britain of the colony of British Guiana, and shall determine the boundary line between the colony of British Guiana and the republic of Venezuela.

4. In deciding the matter submitted the arbitrators shall ascertain all facts which they deem necessary to a decision of the controversy, and shall be governed by the following rules, which are agreed upon by the high contracting parties as rules to be taken as applicable to the case, and by such principles of international law not inconsistent therewith as the arbitrators shall determine to be applicable to the case.

The rules that will govern are as follows:

1. Adverse holding or prescription during a period of fifty years shall make good title. The arbitrators may deem exclusive political control of a district as well as actual settlement thereof sufficient to constitute adverse holding or to make title by prescription.

2. The arbitrators may recognize and give effect to rights and claims resting upon any other ground whatever, valid according to existing international law and on any principle of international law which the arbitrators may deem to be applicable to the case and are not in contravention to the foregoing rules.

3. In determining the boundary line, if the territory of one party be found by the tribunal to have been in the occupation of the subjects or citizens of the other party, such effect shall be given to such occupation as reason, justice, the principles of international law and the equities of the case shall, in the opinion of the tribunal, require.